

Nixon's Book Raises a Grave Policy Issue

BY RAYMOND MOLEY

OLD ENEMIES NEVER DIE; they merely refurbish their rusty weapons. And since Richard Nixon has been so well endowed with implacable critics, his new book "Six Crises," has been combed for errors.

One of these critics is apparently in the White House, for there was issued from that source a denial that when candidate Kennedy stated in the 1960 campaign that action should be taken to overthrow Castro, he knew that preparations for such a revolt were already under way under the direction of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The issue raised here between Messrs. Nixon and Kennedy involves not only a grave matter of national policy, but of fairness and re-



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sponsibility in campaigning for the presidency.

NIXON KNEW preparations for a revolution in Cuba were already secretly under way, and he also knew that his opponent had been briefed on all phases of foreign policy by Allen Dulles, chief of the CIA.

He therefore had no option but to believe that Mr. Kennedy was recklessly using that information to propose something which the Eisenhower administration was preparing.

Also he assumed that, since Castro also knew of the briefing of Mr. Kennedy, this disclosure would endanger the success of the whole operation and sacrifice the lives of those who were going to participate

in the uprising. Since one of the two candidates would soon be president, Castro would be informed of their intentions and get ready for the attack.

But before replying to the Kennedy statement, Nixon asked Interior Sec. Fred Seaton to go to the White House and find out if Mr. Kennedy had been informed of the secret operations. Seaton reported that the candidate had been so informed.

This put Nixon in a critical dilemma. If he joined in the Kennedy advocacy of intervention, which would have been very popular with the country, he would be implying that such preparations were under way, because he was known to have been a factor in making administration policy with regard to Cuba.

Nor could he accuse his opponent of making public what had been communicated

confidentially. That, too, would uncover the secret operation. All he could do was to charge Mr. Kennedy with recklessness.

THE WHITE House on March 20 issued a statement that Mr. Kennedy did not know about the Cuban preparations. Allen Dulles said there had been a "misunderstanding."

Nixon then issued a statement saying "President Eisenhower has authorized me to state that, following the practice he had established in 1956, he had given instructions that in regard to U.S. intelligence operations abroad, Sen. Kennedy was to be as fully briefed on our foreign problems as I was."

If the critics of Nixon wish to be fair, which I doubt, they would turn this question back to Messrs. Kennedy and Dulles.